



AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH



November 2012

www.post 27.org

Commander's Corner



Paula Stephenson

Veterans Day is traditionally a day to honor all who have served in the U.S. military—all branches, Active, Reserve, and Guard. Some Reserve and Guard members who served honorably for their six-year obligation or retired after many years still do not believe they are “veterans.” Hogwash!

All get the flag on their casket in the end. We still salute you for your service. Yes, we have an obligation in certain instances to adhere to the “legal” definition when it comes to money and benefits, but your sacrifice and service to this country are still recognized. No matter what veteran status we hold, remembering our service to this great country of ours on specific days is great but too confining, in my mind.

If the opportunity arises, let ANY day be your Veterans Day. Share your stories with family, friends, and other veterans. And let us not forget, “Women Are Veterans Too”. **Thank you all for your service and happy Veterans Day!**

1st Vice Commander



Ron Craig

Friday, Nov. 9, 6:00 pm Dedication of the Davis County Building. We will raise the Flag and at the ceremony. We would like as many post members present as possible. This is another chance for us to show our strength to the community. Contact John Sheets if you would like to participate in the flag raising.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 11:00am, Kaysville & Fruit Heights Armed Services Recognition Day. Davis Commons Area. Lunch will be served after the program. RSVP to Kaysville City, [801-546-1235](tel:801-546-1235).

Sunday, Nov. 11, 11:00 am, Farmington City Veterans Day Ceremony, at the Veterans Memorial, Farmington City Cemetery. The Post is in charge of the ceremony and will raise the three flags, and provide a rifle salute. Taps will be provided by Bugles Across America. We would like to have as many Post members present as possible. Contact John Sheets if you would like to participate in the Flag raising or the Honor Guard.

Wednesday, Dec 5, 6:30 pm. Put this on your calendar. You don't want to miss our annual Post Christmas Party. Plans are underway for a great event. Contact me if you have ideas and want to help with the activities. This is a time to celebrate and invite. If you know of a potential member, do an invite; then let the committee know so we can keep our attendance numbers balanced. Please RSVP by Nov 26th to Ron Craig at 801-628-3480.

Adjutant



Chuck Stephenson

At the Area 1 Conference/Legion College (2) held at the George E. Wahlen Veteran's Nursing Home on 27 October, Department Commander Bill Dunlap presented Commander Paula Stephenson a Certificate of Distinguished Service from the American Legion National Americanism Commission. The certificate was presented **"For having conducted the most outstanding Americanism program in the Department of Utah."** Thanks to all Post 27 members who contributed to this effort, and we look forward to an even greater level of support and participation in the year ahead.

Post 27 participated in 1 Military Funeral Honors since our last newsletter. We received a very nice Thank You card from the family of Clifford W. Anderson.

Our S.A.L. Squadron currently has eight members who have paid through 2013. I encourage you to think about becoming Dual Status Members if you are eligible. For those members who become dual status this next year, the Squadron will present you with a Dual Status pin as a token of appreciation. Our membership goal (which I know we can easily reach with just a little effort) for this next year has been set at 12.

Chaplain

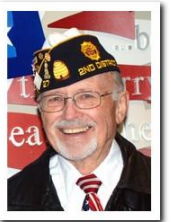


JGolden Barton

November brings Veterans Day. We all re-live some of the great and perhaps not so great memories of our service in the military. World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm are all behind us, but there are memories of those who did not return that are deeply inscribed in our hearts. The many who have survived will always be indebted to the few who gave so much.

What a great privilege it was to have stood with the men and women who served the cause of liberty and defended the God given rights of America the beautiful, the land of the free. Farmington Post 27 salutes all who have served God and Country and pray for the safety of all those in harm's way today. We thank each of you for your military service

Finance Officer/Area 1 Commander



John Sheets

As Finance Officer: We are in good shape for this time of year with Bank balance showing a positive balance of slightly more than \$1200 after all bills are paid.

As Area 1 Commander: Comrades, on Saturday, Oct. 27, our Area 1 conference was held at the Wahlen Veterans Home in Ogden. Post 27 was well represented by Commander Paula Stephenson who presented "The Post Data Report" which is the report gathered from all of the Posts throughout the nation to be presented to the Congress of the United States. This report is important to detail each Post's activities in the "Four Pillars of the Legion" Veterans Affairs, Americanism, Children and Youth and National Defense. If detailed properly and by all Posts, the Legion speaks with a loud voice to the Congress on all of the four Pillars.

Post Adjutant Charles Stephenson presented management of membership using the new web site www.mylegion.org which will be a great assist to all Post Adjutants and Commanders. Sergeant-at-Arms Frank Lennartz also attended to take in the second portion of "Legion College", which is being taught by the Past Department Commander Bob Jones. Legion College is designed as an assist in management of all phases of the Post operation.

POW/MIA News



Jay C. Hess

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced Oct. 16 that the remains of two servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be buried, as a group, with full military honors. Air Force Col. Wendell Keller of Fargo, N.D., and Capt. Virgil K. Meroney III of Fayetteville, Ark., will be buried as a group, in a single casket representing the crew, on Oct. 19, in Arlington National Cemetery. Meroney was interred individually on June 9, in his hometown. On March 1, 1969, Keller and Meroney were the crew of an F-4D Phantom II aircraft that crashed while carrying out a nighttime strike mission in Khammouan Province, Laos. Nearby U.S. aircrews reported seeing the

aircraft hit by enemy fire. No parachutes were seen after the aircraft was hit. Heavy enemy presence in the area prevented recovery efforts.

From 1994 to 2011, joint U.S.-Lao People's Democratic Republic teams, led by Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted several investigations and excavations of the crash site in Khammouan Province, Laos. The teams located human remains, military equipment, a military identification card, and aircraft wreckage of an F-4, including an engine data plate and radio call-sign plate. During the 17 years of investigations, analysts evaluated the material evidence and the accounts of more than 40 eyewitnesses to confirm the information correlated with the crew's loss location.

To identify the remains, scientists from JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools including dental comparisons and radiograph comparisons. Today, 1,655 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The U.S. government continues to work closely with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover Americans lost during the Vietnam War.

- **The HAFB Museum opened the Vietnam display area with a ribbon cutting on POW/MIA recognition day Sept 21st. There is a replica of one of the cells in the Hanoi Hilton that I was in.**

Historian/Public Relations

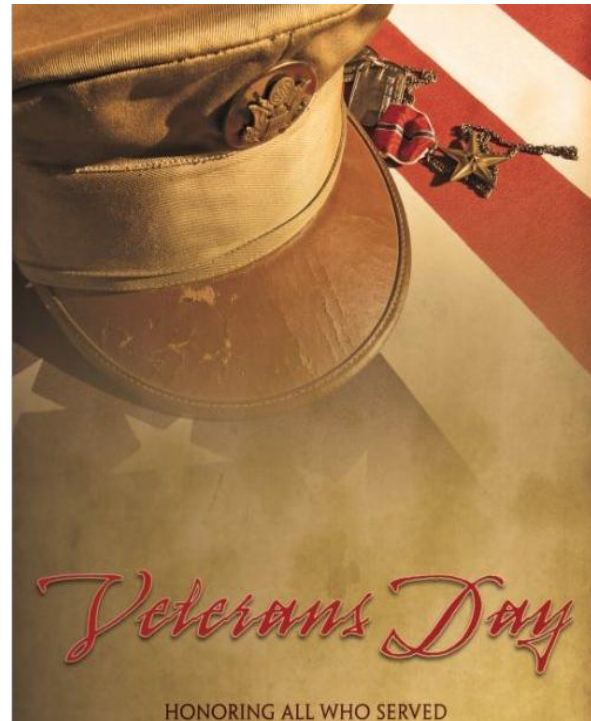


Kent Hansen

How Our Veterans Day Came To Be -- World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.” In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m. The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926. Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Legion Laffs



Calendar of Events/Dates of Interest.

- Nov. 8 -- **Next Post 27 Monthly Meeting:** 6:30 pm, Davis County Courthouse, Room 114, Farmington
- Nov. 9 -- **Open House** at the new Davis County Administration Building, 6:30-8:30pm. This includes guided tours. The Davis County Commissioners meet in this building now in Suite 303.
- Nov. 10 -- **Kaysville & Fruit Heights Armed Services Recognition Day** at Davis High School at 11:00am (RSVP required)
- Nov. 11 – **Veterans Day Program**, Veterans Memorial, Farmington City Cemetery, 11:00am, corner of 200 East 500 South, Farmington
- Nov. 22 – **Thanksgiving Day.**
- Dec. 5 -- **Post 27 Christmas Party:** 6:30pm social with 7:00pm dinner, at Granny Annie's Restaurant ballroom area, in Kaysville. Order from the menu. Wheelchair accessible. Easy parking. All Post members, potential Legion members, and family are welcome. This includes Sons of the American Legion Squadron members.
- Dec. 7 – **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**
- Dec. 10 – **Veteran Speaker Series**, Salt Lake City Library, 210 East 400 South, Auditorium. 7:00pm. Music from the 40's and 50's from 6:10pm to 7:10pm. Featured Speakers: Don Peterson, Air Force, Korea, and Richard Casdorff, Marine Corps, Korea.



Department Commander Bill Dunlap presents Post 27 Commander Paula Stephenson with a Certificate of Distinguished Service from the American Legion National Americanism Commission. *"For having conducted the most outstanding Americanism program in the Department of Utah."*

Davis County Commissioners Brett Millburn and Louenda Downs present coins to Boys and Girls State 2012 graduates who attended the Oct. 30 Commission meeting. Chuck Stephenson, District 2 Commander, calls the 48 students by school for the presentations.



Post 27 October meeting with Post Members and Boys and Girls State 2012 graduates who told of their experiences at the June event.